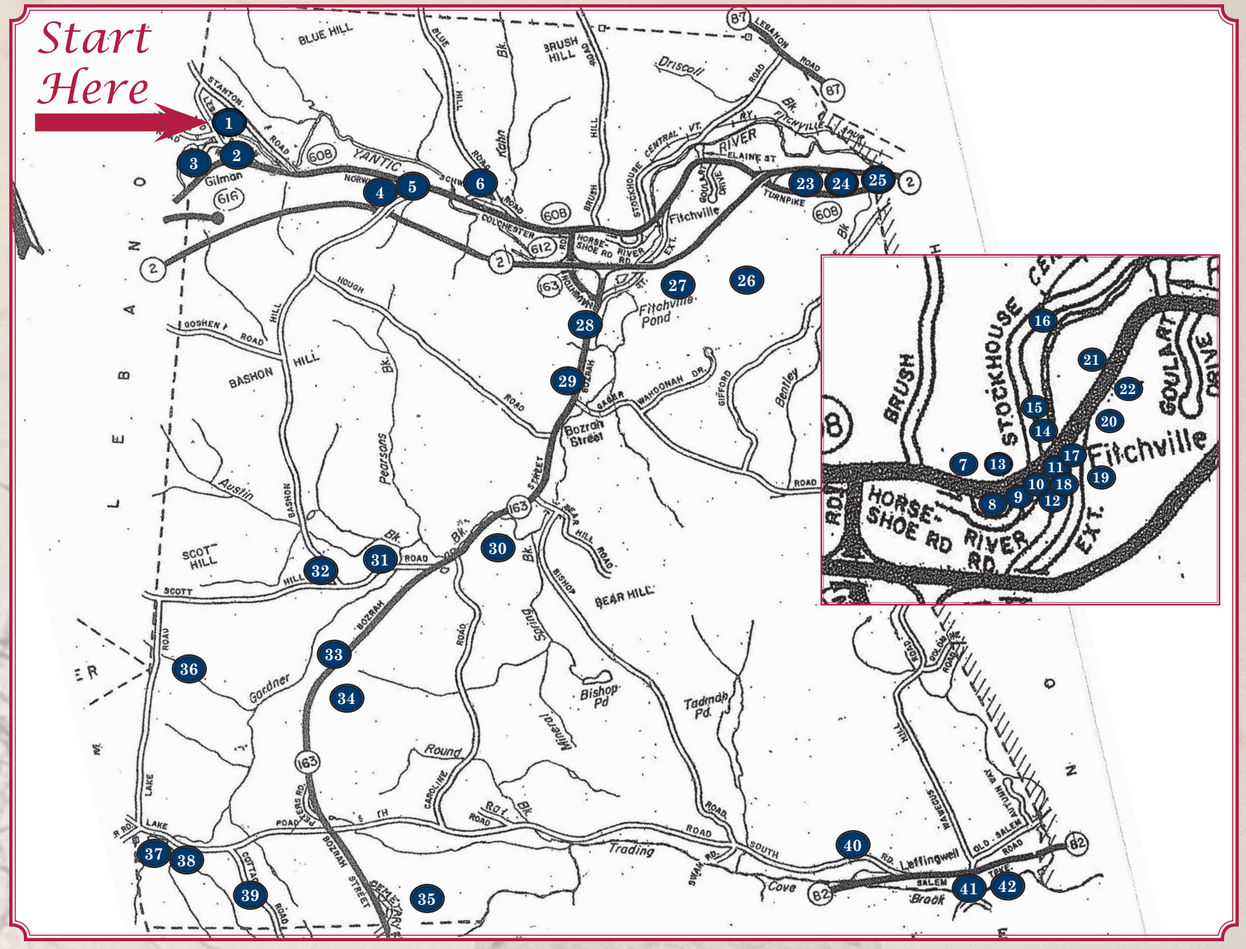

1. Gilman Mill - Bozrahville Manufacturing Co. (9 Thomas Rd)

The Gilman Mill - Bozrahville Manufacturing Company was established at this site in 1814 when David L. Dodge and others directed the construction of a 4-story stone mill to manufacture cotton goods. Over the next 91 years the mill changed hands several times until Nathan Gilman, an immigrant from Eastern Europe, purchased it in 1905. He "retooled" the mill to produce shoddy for filling comforters and mattresses. The original buildings were destroyed by fires around 1908. The company has transformed over the years to currently be a leading manufacturer of graphic arts boards used for signs, displays and, wall décor by customers worldwide.

2. Marty Gilman, Inc. (30 Gilman Rd)

Marty Gilman, Inc was founded on this site in 1929. He established the manufacturing business in a former boarding house. The original building was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt at its current site. Marty pioneered the development of all the training tools which are now commonplace on practice fields around the US and the world. He brought to the market the first football blocking and tackling sled, dummy and shield. The innovative legacy continues today as Gilman Gear (on Commerce Park along Stockhouse Rd), which was the first to introduce such modern innovations as the Roll Tackle Ring and the Pylon Cam, used by all major TV networks to broadcast NFL games.

3. Bozrahville School (34 Gilman Rd)

The District 5 Bozrahville School was built in 1840. It closed and reopened several times due to fluctuations in the number of children based on the fortunes of the mill. The belfry blew down during the 1938 hurricane, and the final year as a schoolhouse was 1942. It served briefly as an appliance store in the late 1940s, then office space for Gilman Corp. The school was recently renovated into a single-occupant rental apartment featuring the restoration of separate boys and girls entrance doors and the original 1800s bell in the belfry.

4. Tollgate Farm (468 Fitchville Rd)

Tollgate Farm, formally the William F. Bailey Farm, was built about 1780. Bailey kept over 60 horses, mules and oxen and had numerous tenants. Purchased by John S.(Star) Sullivan in 1895, the farm maintained 80 head of milking cows and supplied telephone poles, railroad ties, and guardrail posts for area projects. The house has 33 rooms. The two main barns across the street are listed in *Historic Barns of Connecticut*. The older structure was recently demolished.

5. Johnson School (1 Bashon Hill Rd)

Johnson School (District 3), located at the intersection of Bashon Hill and Fitchville Rd, was built around 1900, but closed in 1929 due to low enrollment. The building was later converted into a private home.

6. Bozrah Rural Cemetery (37 Schwartz Rd)

The Bozrah Rural Cemetery, formally known as the Throop Burying Ground or Johnson Cemetery, is the largest and one of the oldest cemeteries in town. Its origins date back to the 1740s when Bozrah was known as New Concord, a branch of Norwich. The cemetery remains one of the two active cemeteries in town and is managed by the Bozrah Rural Cemetery Association. A large Fitch family plot, stones by the 'Bozrah devil carver' and the Irving gravesite all have interesting historical backgrounds.

7. Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company & Memorial Garden (239 Fitchville Rd)

The Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company was founded in 1950 with 71 charter members who are named on a plaque in the Memorial Garden. The current building was first constructed in 1956 on land donated by Nathan Hantman and has had several major additions. The Ladies Auxiliary formed in 1955 and the Cadets in 1968. Ambulance service began in 1975. The BVFC is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2025.

8. Fitchville Mill Village (230's Fitchville Rd)

The Fitchville Mill Village houses, as they have come to be known, were built along Fitchville Pond on land that formerly served as a fruit tree orchard as depicted in an 1874 map. The duplex houses were built circa 1885 to accommodate the expanding workforce at the Palmer Brothers Company mill nearby.

The road became known as River Road. A second set of six similar houses were built circa 1910-1912 on what is locally known as Horseshoe Road. This section was known for many years as the "New Village" and is depicted in photo postcards of that era. The two houses (directly across the street from the fire department) are slightly larger and were intended for the mill bosses or foremen of the day.

9. Town Hall (Palmer Hall) (1 River Rd)

The Town Hall (Palmer Hall) was built about 1835 to raise silkworms (sericulture) for the nearby fabric mill. The large windows helped heat the inside. The building was used later as a public hall for entertainment and a movie theatre, housed the first fire truck behind the double doors at the building center, and was purchased by the Town in 1949 to become the town hall, which was previously in the basement of the Congregational Church. Boy Scouts met in the upstairs hall with the vault and offices on the first floor. Renovations in 2010 updated the windows, mechanical systems and added the elevator section on the pond side.

10. Veteran's Memorial Park (1 River Rd)

Veteran's Memorial Park was renovated in 2013 as an Eagle Scout project funded by the Rivers Janowitz American Legion Post 138. It commemorates townspeople from Bozrah who served in the military throughout wartime periods.

11. Fitch/Burrell-Pierce Home (210 Fitchville Rd)

The Fitch/Burrell-Pierce home was originally the Fitch family homestead. This 1790 Cape-style house served as the store and post office prior to 1885 and is now privately owned.

BOZRAH
GILMAN
FITCHVILLE
NEW CONCORD
1786
1786

The Road Tour Brochure was produced by the Bozrah Historical Society, 2025, in celebration of the 240th Anniversary of the founding of Bozrah and the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America.

Credits:

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Sources for additional information:

- *Connecticutbarns.org*
- *200th Anniversary Town of Bozrah Bicentennial Booklet*
- *Connecticut State Library holdings*
- *TownofBozrah.org*

To learn more:
Town of Bozrah Historical Society

The Bozrah Historical Society (BHS)

Mission:
To share knowledge of the town's history, foster appreciation for the historical development of the town of Bozrah, and identify, collect, and preserve historical items.

Meetings:
4th Thursday of month, January - October
Bozrah Town Hall, 7PM

Membership:
$15/year dues, open to all interested in Bozrah History.

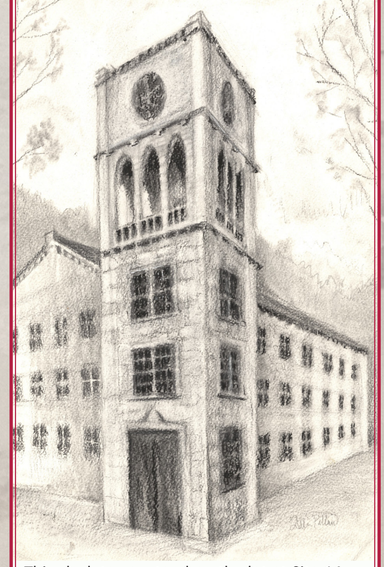
Contact Info:
Email: BozHisSoc23@gmail.com OR
Att: BHS, 1 River Rd, Bozrah CT 06334

Donations:
The BHS is interested in collecting or copying articles, pictures and artifacts related to all aspects of Bozrah history. Items can be brought or sent to the town hall, to the officers of BHS or to any meeting.

Officers:
Pres. Glenn Pianka, V.P. Ray Barber, Treas. Cyrus Gilman, Sec. Susan Ververis

Fitch/Palmer Brothers Mill, late 1800s

A Road Tour of Historic Sites in Bozrah



This clock tower stood on the lot at Site 14 on the road tour. Sadly, it was deemed unsafe and torn down after several fires destroyed the mill. (Palmer Brothers Company)